

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1967 - HB 2036

February 24, 2022

SUMMARY OF BILL: Prohibits a private, state, or local governmental entity from requiring inmates to pay a copayment, coinsurance, or other cost for certain medical care received at the facility where the inmate is incarcerated.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Decrease State Revenue - \$138,500/FY22-23 and Subsequent Years

Decrease Local Revenue – Exceeds \$107,400/FY22-23 and Subsequent Years

Assumptions:

- Based on information provided by the Department of Correction (DOC), between calendar years 2017-2019, disregarding 2020 and 2021 due to pandemic impacts, the average annual amount received by state correctional facilities from medical copays was \$138,455.
- The proposed legislation would eliminate this revenue. Therefore, a recurring decrease in state revenue to DOC is estimated to be \$138,455 in FY22-23 and subsequent years.
- Based on information provided by the County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS) and the Municipal Technical Assistance Service (MTAS), the proposed legislation will result in a significant decrease in local revenue.
- The precise amount of local revenue received each year from inmate medical copays is unknown.
- According to the Tennessee Jail Summary Report prepared by DOC, the total misdemeanor inmate population in local jails across the state was approximately 20,452 in December, 2021.
- The precise percentage of inmates deemed indigent and unable to pay copays is unknown; it is assumed to be 30 percent, resulting in 6,136 indigent inmates (20,452 x 30%).
- According to CTAS, there is no standard rate for medical copays in local jails. It is assumed to always be at least \$15.
- If half of the non-indigent inmate receives billable medical care one time each year during incarceration, the total local revenue received each year is estimated to be \$107,370 $\{[(20,452 - 6,136) \times 50\%] \times \$15\}$.

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- Therefore, the total mandatory recurring decrease in local revenue is estimated to exceed \$107,370 in FY22-23 and subsequent years.

IMPACT TO COMMERCE:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumption:

- The proposed legislation will not result in a significant impact to commerce or jobs in Tennessee.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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